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DIST 14 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: MEXICO

DOI : 13 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: MEXICO CITY SITREP

ACQ :

SOURCE :

1. AN ESTIMATED THIRTY THOUSAND TO FIFTY THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS TURNED OUT FOR THE MARCH FROM THE NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (IPN) TO THE MEXICO CITY ZOCALO ON 13 AUGUST 1968. AT 2010 HOURS, AFTER A THREE HOUR MARCH, THE END OF THE COLUMN REACHED THE ZOCALO, BY WHICH TIME THE NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED, INCLUDING MANY BYSTANDERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT FROM SEVENTY-FIVE TO EIGHTY THOUSAND. THE MARCHING COLUMN CONSISTED PRIMARILY OF STUDENTS, BUT SOME WORKERS WERE OBSERVED. THE MARCH WAS ORDERLY, AND NO DISTURBANCES WERE OBSERVED OR REPORTED. EXCEPT FOR PLAIN CLOTHES POLICEMEN AND PATROL CARS, NEITHER THE POLICE FORCE NOR

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THE ARMY WAS PRESENT ON THE SCENE, ALTHOUGH SOME POLICE VANS WERE SIGHTED IN THE VICINITY.

2. ON ARRIVAL AT THE ZOCALO, STUDENTS ASSEMBLED PUBLIC ADDRESS EQUIPMENT IN PREPARATION FOR SPEECH-MAKING. SEVERAL STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TO CLIMB THE WALL OF THE NATIONAL PALACE, BUT THEY WERE RESTRAINED BY OTHER STUDENTS. THERE WAS MUCH CLAMORING FOR THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO TO MAKE A" APPEARANCE, BUT ALL LIGHTS IN THE PALACE WERE OUT.

3. AS OF 2100 HOURS, A FEW STUDENTS WERE DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE AREA, BUT A MAJORITY REMAINED.

4. [redacted] ISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR FBI CINCSO.

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